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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9306 and that a confirmation copy is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313, 1450, on:

August 30, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Applicant(s):

Hobson, et al.

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Hewitt II, Calvin L.

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TRANSACTION

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Arlington, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

In response to the Office Action mailed on August 9, 2004, of which this response is filed within the three month shortened statutory period for response, please consider the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.